



**Transcript for the March 28<sup>th</sup> 2013, Webchat  
Immigrant and Nonimmigrant Visas**

Q. Hi, I am a Resident Alien (UK National) living in the San Francisco Bay Area. My girlfriend is British and lives in the UK with her two sons at her own property. She frequently visits me under the ESTA program, her last visit she departed 3/21 back to the UK after 80 days here in SF. Question, when can she return - does she have to leave for a given time (ie 3 months) before returning. She does not work, just stays with me less than 90 days and heads home to her boys. Immigration officer in SF airport said she would not be allowed back in next time she visits. Clarification would be most welcome. Thanks

A. There is no set period of time that a tourist must remain outside the United States before applying for re-entry. However, if Immigration officials believe that your girlfriend is using the Visa Waiver Program to reside in the U.S., they will refuse her entry. If your girlfriend has been advised to obtain a visa before traveling again to the United States, she may wish to do so. Information about applying for a nonimmigrant visa is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html>

Q. I am currently holding a Taiwan Passport (which Taiwan Passport is included in Visa Waiver Program) however, I was born in South Korea and lived all my life in Korea with holding a foreign registration number but do not hold National ID of Taiwan due to my residence is in South Korea. I am currently based in Manchester UK with holding work permit. Can I still register VWP without holding National ID of Taiwan? or Do I need to visit US Embassy in London?

A. Information about the Visa Waiver Program for Taiwanese citizens is available from the Embassy website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>. If you do not meet ALL the requirements to travel visa free, you will be required to obtain the appropriate visa before travelling to the United States.

Q. Hi, my fiancé and I are both UK citizens. He currently holds a E2 visa and I have a B2 visa accompanying him. We are both now in the US. We will be getting married within the next 6 months in the US. I would also like to apply for a E2 as his spouse so I am able to work. Do I have to return to the UK to reapply for the E2 visa or can I do it in the US? Do I just apply for a new visa or is it a change of non-immigrant status? Thanks

A. If you are currently in the United States, you should contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for assistance in adjusting your status. Then, next time you depart the United States, you can apply to have the new visa placed in your passport.

Q. Can I bring to interview interpreter /translator/. My English is basic only. Thanks

A. If you cannot speak any English, you may bring an interpreter, but if you have basic English, you should have no problem in answering the consular officer's questions. If you need to bring an interpreter, you must advise the Operator when you book your appointment.



Q. Can you please tell me what are the requirements to apply for a visit visa for 6 months for EU nationals that live in the United Kingdom.

A. You are required to apply for a visa in person and should call our Operator Assisted Information Service on 09042 450 100 (calls cost 1.23/min) to schedule an appointment. Any questions you have can be answered by the agents on that line, or you can visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov> for information on the application process.

Q. I wanted to ask whether driving without insurance is considered as turpitude crime/ offence and needs to be declared on ESTA.

A. If you have ever been arrested or convicted, we recommend that you apply for a visa and allow a consular officer to adjudicate your eligibility. Information about applying for a nonimmigrant visa is available from the Embassy website, <http://london.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant-visas.html>

Q. Hello, I have a valid American visa, but the passport I have it stamped into, has expired. Can I travel to the USA on the new passport and bring along the expired passport with a valid visa in it? Or do I have to apply for a new visa? Many thanks

A. Provided that the visa was not clipped or damaged when your old passport was cancelled, and that you will travel to the United States for the same purpose as that for which the visa was originally issued, you may travel with your new passport and the old, expired passport containing your valid visa.

Q. hi, i have a visitor visa valid for 10 years. this is on my old indian passport. now i have become a british citizen.can i use the visa which is on the old passport?

A. No, as you have changed your nationality, you can no longer use the visa issued in your Indian passport. As a British citizen, you may be eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program with a valid ESTA registration. More information is available from our website: <http://london.usembassy.gov/vwp.html>

Q. Hi, I applied for a nonimmigrant visa on 18/09/2012 and it went to Administrative Processing. When I check the status online it shows "Pending" for the last 6+ month. Is there anything I can do to get more information about where the application is stuck?

A. We're sorry, we can't answer case specific questions during this webchat. If you have a question about your specific case, you should contact the Operator service on 09042 450 100 (1.23/min) for assistance

Q. Hi, i am from the UK and I am applying for the fiancé visa. I am getting married in SC on the 2nd Aug and my question is at what point will I be eligible to receive a social security number?

A. We suggest that you contact the Federal Benefits Unit for assistance with your Social Security question - contact information is available on our website: [http://london.usembassy.gov/cons\\_new/acs/fbu/index.html](http://london.usembassy.gov/cons_new/acs/fbu/index.html)



Q. I will be attending a conference in Oklahoma City from June 1st to June 7th, 2013. I have to have a visa to enter the US and I currently have a B1/B2 visa that expires June 18th. Is this visa OK to use for my visit or do I need a new one?

A. The validity of the visa refers to the time in which you can travel to the United States and apply for entry. Provided that your visa remains valid at the date you enter the U.S., you may use that visa.

Q. Hi I'm an Indian Passport holder having Point base system Tear1 General Visa. I want to apply 10yers Multiple visitor visa for my spouse and my child who are my dependent to visit her relatives in USA. I want to know, if I can apply from UK and what are the forms I need to fill, the fees payable and the documents needed. My spouse and child are with me in UK at the moment.

A. Detailed information about applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa is available from the Embassy website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> You may also wish to review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> Regarding supporting documentation, there is no set form that evidence may take, and it is not possible for a third party to make guarantees on an applicant's behalf as it is each applicant's responsibility to demonstrate that they qualify for a visa. Since applying for a U.S. visa is not primarily a document based process, the officer will only review documents if they are necessary to make a decision about visa eligibility. In many cases, the information provided orally during the visa interview and via the application form is sufficient for the officer to make a decision.

Q. I am a US Permanent resident in the USA and wish for my children, age 9 and 10 to join me in the US. Currently they reside in London but their follow to Join interview is scheduled in Lagos, Nigeria. Please what should I do to transfer their files to your London office as I do not want them to miss out of school during the process of Immigrating to the US Thank you so much for your help.

A. If your children are now resident in the United Kingdom, you should contact the Embassy in Lagos to advise them of this. You must provide your children's permanent address in the UK when requesting that their file be transferred.

Q. I would like to apply USA visa for travelling purpose in May, 2013. FYI, I had made the payment (Visa fees) in my country (Malaysia) but I didn't have enough time to go through the interview due to certain circumstances. However, I am still keeping the receipt with me now. I was wondering could I use that receipt number to do the application in UK? Or is there any alternatives? I really wish I could use that receipt for my visa application in London since the visa is quite costly. Please let me know your opinion=)

A. If you wish to schedule an appointment at the Embassy in London to apply for a visa, you must pay a new MRV fee. Please contact the Operator service to arrange an appointment and pay the required fee.

Q. I am in UK on work permit, my question is. At the time of immigrant Visa (CR 1) interview, how long UK visa one should have? As for visit visa, there is some requirement like Minimum 6



months UK visa requires at the time of interview as overseas applicant. Is this same for immigrant VISA or they have different criteria? Thanks

A. There is no set period of time that you must have remaining on your UK visa when applying for an Immigrant Visa. If processing in your immigrant visa is not completed by the time your UK visa runs out, you can request that your case is transferred to the Embassy or Consulate having jurisdiction over your new place of residence.

Q. I am a Vietnamese studying at a university in the US as an international student. I will be study abroad for three months in London in the Fall, and when I come back to the US in the winter to continue my study at my current school, my visa will be expired by that time. Can I renew my visa while I am in London or do I need to come back to my home country (Vietnam) to renew my visa?

A. Detailed information about applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa is available from the Embassy website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> You may also wish to review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772>, for information for third country nationals applying in London

Q. Sirs, I have had a B1/B2 visa for 20 years. I recently applied for a renewal and attended the interview yesterday. I plan to travel on the 9th April but was told that although they are recommending my visa be renewed it will now take 26 weeks as the system has changed. I was unaware of this and now face losing thousands of pounds in travel costs and a sale on some land I own in cocoa where I had arranged meetings. Is there a way I can speed up the process even if it involves paying an extra fee ?

A. Unfortunately, there is no way to expedite visa processing. If you have been advised that you require a waiver of ineligibility, you should expect processing to take approximately 6 months.

Q. Hi, a professional band of US nationals have asked me to be their Tour Manager for a summer tour in US. I tour manage them in UK & Europe. I am a professional Tour Manager & work with many US acts in the UK/Europe (inc Grammy nominated acts) Which visa category would cover this?

A. If you would be working in the United States for a U.S. band, you will require the appropriate employment based visa. Information about employment based visas is available from our website.

Q. The status of my J-1 visa application, which is subject to Administrative Processing, is currently "send passport \$ new travel itinerary". Does this imply that my application has already gone through Administrative Processing and that I can send my passport? However, I have not received any email or message from the Embassy informing me of doing so. I was wondering if the Embassy sends out any formal email or message when the passport is ready to send. Thanks a lot.



A. There is no notification by email, the Status Check document provides all the information you require. If your status on that document has changed to "Send Passport" you should do so as soon as possible.

Q. I am a uk citizen and have a holiday home in the usa and travel there for 2 or 3 weeks every 2 months is it ok to continue with my esta or do I need to have a b2 visa

A. The Visa Waiver Program is appropriate for travelers who wish to spend 90 days or less in the United States, and meet all the necessary criteria. If you wish to remain in the U.S. for longer than 90 days, a B-2 (tourist) visa may be appropriate. Please note that the Visa Waiver Program and the B-2 visa cannot be used to reside in the United States. If Immigration officials believe that you are mis-using the VWP or a visa, you will be refused entry and returned home.

Q. Hi I travel to the US to visit my boyfriend who is British and has Resident Alien Status. I travel on an ESTA. I left US after 80 days last week .What is the amount of time i have to stay out of the US before i can go back for another 80 day stay. Is there a time limit between entries.

A. There is no set period of time that a person must remain outside the United States before applying for re-entry. However, if immigration officials believe that you are attempting to reside in the U.S. without the proper immigrant visa, you will be refused entry and returned home at considerable personal expense.

Q. Do I need to have a blank page in my passport for a non-immigrant visa? My passport is valid for three more years but every page has stamps on it from various trips.

A. Yes, you must have a blank page in your passport for the Embassy to insert a visa. If you do not have any blank pages, you may wish to obtain a new passport before applying for a visa to the United States.

Q. I want to visit my family in California this summer, they (parents and two siblings) have green cards, but i am now quite sure whether i can get a visa on my Uk convention travel document (BLUE) and if i can what do i need to do? and how long does it take? many thanks

A. You should contact the Operator on 09042 450 100 (£1.23/min) to provide some more information. We can then assist you further.

Q. My son has recently received his EAD (Employment Authorization Document) which he applied for via his college through the Optional Practical Training option. He graduates in May. When his card arrived he noticed it had pre-completion on it but should have had post-completion as the status. Also the start date was the 1st July, when it should have been 1st June. What is the procedure to get this changed please. Many thanks.

A. Your son should contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for assistance in getting the document amended. Unfortunately, the Embassy cannot assist with this issue.

Q. I am a uk resident and professional cameraman. I have a corporate video job coming up in the US. The filming requires us to interview a company employee about the product they have



bought and use. It will only be used as a customer case study for the manufacturer and is not for TV broadcast . I will take my equipment in with a Carnet . My question is do I need an 'I' visa or will an ESTA be ok as I'm not a journalist.

A. If you are not employed for a foreign media organization and the material you are to film is for in-house use only by the company, you will require a B-1 visa. If qualified, you may travel visa free and register under ESTA but we suggest that you carry a letter from the company which explains in detail the purpose of travel.

Q. Hi, I am shan and I am a chinese student in the uk. My visa expire at the end of August. I hope to travel to USA during July . Can I apply for a visa now? If so, what kind of visa I need to apply for?

A. Detailed information about applying for a B-2 (tourist) visa is available from the Embassy website at <http://london.usembassy.gov/b2.html> You may also wish to review our blog post at <http://www.usembassy.org.uk/visaservices/?p=772> for information about applying in London. We recommend that you apply well in advance of your planned travel date.

Q. I am presently schooling in the UK, am from Nigeria. I was just invited for a conference in Chicago by May and am hoping to apply for a visa next week. Can i apply for a B1/B2 visa or must it be a B1? Because i feel i can always come to the US on a vacation not necessarily for a conference some other time.

A. You can apply for a B1/B2 visa, which would cover both business activities and tourism.

Q. Hi, I am a Golf Coach and looking to go to the US to work within the college system. I am in discussion with a number of schools. I have a few questions though. Would I be granted a Visa if I went to work at an institute as a volunteer coach?

A. Hi Matt, you will still require an employment based visa, even if you will be volunteering. Visit our website at <http://london.usembassy.gov> and check out the requirements for a P-1 or H-2 visa.

Q. what is the payable visa fees for B-2 visa for an adult and does a child of 2yrs need to pay fees?

A. The B-2 visa is \$160 per applicant. All applicants, including children are required to pay the fee as well.

Q. If I make the visa application by courier will I still have to be present for the interview ? If yes then can is it possible to apply the visa documents and get interviewed at the same time ?

A. You can only apply for a visa by courier if qualified to do so. Most applicants 16 - 79 are required to apply in person through a prearranged appointment.

Q. Hello, I am presently a permanent resident of the U.S. with a British passport. I was married to a U.S. citizen for 23 years but am recently divorced. Family matters have made it necessary for me to return to the U.K. and it might well turn into an extended stay. My permanent





resident's card expires in April 2013 and I am anxious as to what to do as I have 2 children who are both U.S. citizens. Could you advise me how I might apply for a continuation of my residency status; whether it is necessary at all, considering my age(62), and whether this could be done through the United States Embassy in London. Thank you for this forum.

A. Hi Geoff. You will maintain status provided you do not remain outside the United States for longer than 12 months and maintain a bona fide residence there. It is possible for an LPR to apply for a RE-Entry Permit to remain outside the United States for up to two years. We recommend that you contact USCIS for further information.

Q. Is the total time for an ESTA 90 days or can it be used for multiple visits less than 90days

A. The total period of time you may stay under the Visa Waiver Program and ESTA is 90 days. However there is no limit to the number of visits you may make in any given period of time. You should be sure to carry with you for presentation to U.S. immigration evidence showing that your visit is temporary together with evidence of a residence abroad to which you will return at the end of each visit.

Q. I have applied for non-migrant business visa in Sep 2012 and it went to administrative processing. When I check the status online, it says Pending. When I call the embassy operator, they say I should check the online status. Is there anyway with which I or the company inviting me from the USA can find out what the pending issues with the visa, or I should just wait?

A. We can't respond to case specific questions during this webchat. If you have been advised that your application is subject to administrative processing, you should continue to monitor the status of your case online via the Embassy website. If, after 6 months, your status has not changed, you should contact the Operator Service for assistance.

Q. Is there an online option where I can view the available appointment dates and timings ?

A. We currently do not offer an on-line appointment booking system. However, we do post appointment availability at the beginning of each week on Twitter @USinUKCGCorner.

Q. My case with NVC and may give CR1 interview date soon in London embassy if I want to request to change the Interview place to my home country. Please how long it process will take to transfer from UK to other US embassy.

A. If you have changed your country of residence, you should advise the NVC as soon as possible. It can take several weeks for case files to be transferred between Embassies.

We're closing the webchat now, thanks for participating! We'll post the transcript on our website soon. We're also hosting a twitter chat on April 10th, so if you have any questions, come join us then!